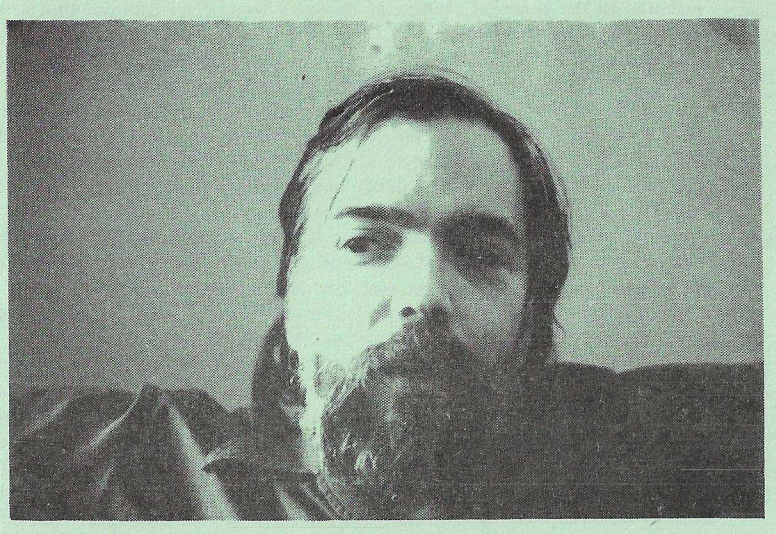
CHANNELCON

THE 1982 BRITISH EASTER SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION
APRIL 9TH—12TH, 1982

Progress Report 4

March 1982



Joint Guest of Honour

John Sladek

Mug
Biscuits
? Coffee
Money
Chequebook

Change of clothes
Pills

ONLY TWO WEEKS TO GO

Yes, that's all — so this Progress Report is packed full of information vital for your last minute preparations; read it carefully and keep it with you.

Due to my increasing workload, we have created a new role of Vice-Chairman within the committee. This post will carry responsibility for the general areas of Guest of Honour liaison and committee co-ordination. I am pleased to say that Chris Atkinson has agreed to take on this role.

Plans are now finalised and all that is left is for you to turn up; we'd feel fools without you. I hope you have a good convention, and don't forget — mine's a Southern Comfort.

— Eve Harvey

SO HOW TO GET THERE?

Those of you who attended Seacon should have no trouble finding either Brighton or the Metropole, but for the rest of you here are some directions that I hope will help. The hotel is situated on the seafront, virtually opposite West Pier (the one that's falling down; be careful, Brighton has two piers!)

Brighton is easily accessible by all forms of transport.

Train Fast train services leave from London Victoria throughout the day, but additional services run from London Bridge. Brighton station is situated in the middle of the town, a 15-minute walk from the hotel; merely come out of the main entrance and follow Queens Road straight down to the seafront. The Metropole is on your right, past the Brighton Conference Centre and the Grand Hotel. If you want to arrive in style, there is a taxi rank in front of the station.

Car If you reach Brighton via the A23 from London, follow the signs for Town Centre/Seafront and you will arrive at a roundabout on the seafront above Palace Pier. Turn right (otherwise you'll get wet) and half a mile later you're at the Metropole. If you approach Brighton from a different direction, find the seafront road and head for West Pier, which is on the Brighton/Hove border.

Parking: The Metropole does not have its own car park, but there are NCP car parks in abundance. The nearest is just behind the hotel, but reached by turning up West Street a quarter of a mile east of the hotel itself (that is, before you get to the hotel if you're coming along the seafront from the A23). After turning up West Street, turn left, following the signs for the "Metropole" car park. There are also other car parks off this road. The next nearest car park to the hotel is an underground one beneath Regency Square: turn second right after passing the hotel going westwards, and you will find the entrance at the top end of the square. Street parking is possible, though it could prove difficult to find a non-meter space if you don't know Brighton.

YOU'VE MADE IT!

Hopefully, the above directions will get you to the hotel and you will then be ready to commence the festivities.

Registration: Once you have registered with the hotel (if you are staying in it), we would like you to register as soon as possible with the convention. The Registration Desk will be open Friday 10.00 am — 6.00 pm, and on Saturday and Sunday from 10.00 am for as long as necessary. When you register you will receive your Programme Book, name badge and other items such as the Programme Sheet: you will also, if you are a supporting member, need to pay the difference to make you an attending member.

When you have received your convention name badge, please wear it at all times

during the convention. This identifies you — to the convention committee and staff, and also to the hotel staff — as Not A Gatecrasher.

Membership rates: If you are a supporting member and wish to convert to attending at the convention, the rate is £5.00. New members joining at the door pay £8.00.

We regret that one-day memberships are not available.

Decorations, posters: If you have been to recent Eastercons, Channelcon will seem different as soon as you arrive. The Metropole is not the modern, faceless, rabbit-hutch style of hotel we have become used to recently, but a beautiful old building full of style and character. In addition, many of the public rooms have been redecorated recently and so we would make a plea that you treat the hotel with respect. Posters can be put up, but please, only on the notice boards provided or on the wooden panelling (and then only with Blu-Tak, which is available from the Information Desk in the Churchill Room). Unfortunately the hotel suffered quite severe damage during Seacon '79 from posters on walls, and Channelcon will be held liable for any damage so caused. If anyone is found sticking posters on any other walls, they will be charged for any damage, or alternatively the group or organisation being advertised. Following their experiences with Seacon, the hotel staff are very conscious of this problem, and we would appreciate your help in maintaining good relations with them, since the attitude of hotel staff can make or break the atmosphere of a convention.

Hotel rooms: A reminder about two things that should be self-evident, but may need to be restated for some people. Firstly, about unbooked people staying overnight in hotel rooms. This cannot be condoned by the Channelcon committee, and if the hotel staff find this is happening then offenders will have to grin and bear whatever action the hotel take: we can't bail you out! Secondly, convention members are, of course, responsible for settling their own room bills.

THE NECESSITIES (Food and Drink)

First things first — the bars. In addition to the Cocktail Lounge there are three other bars, so wherever you are on the ground floor you will still be within staggering distance of at least one. In addition, there is the Cannon pub, which is next to the hotel and under the same management, although there is no access from within the hotel itself.

At the time of going to press, application for extension of licence has not been completed, but whatever the outcome, the two main convention bars will be open from 10 am — 4 pm and 6 pm — 2 am whilst the convention is in progress. Should there be insufficient demand after midnight, however, one may close. If the hotel are not granted an extension for the whole period, it may be necessary to produce your room key at the bar, but there will still be one bar at least open until 2 am. The third bar is in the Fan Room, and this will close during programme items.

We have negotiated a reduction in prices for the special convention bars, so that draught beer will be 40p a half pint, whisky, vodka and gin 56p per measure and minerals 25p. Prices in the Cannon pub are slightly lower, but as already mentioned, the only access is via the street.

Food: Should you decline the delights of Brighton's numerous restaurants, the Buttery in the Metropole will be open as usual, and if you're on an expense account, so will the Starlit Room. In addition, hot and cold snacks will be available in the Cameo Room between 12 noon and 3 pm each day. The selection will be varied; for example: soup, bread and butter 60p; pate and French bread 70p; hot poultry pie 95p; ploughman's platter 85p; hot dish of the day £1.50. A similar selection is available in the Cannon pub.

A selection of hot meals will be available between 10 pm and midnight in the Primrose Room.

Buffet-style English breakfast is in the Cameo Room from 8 am — 10.30 am.

Toastmaster JOSEPHINE SAXTON

It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Toastmaster at the Channelcon Banquet is to be Josephine Saxton. Ms. Saxton first came to the notice of the sf world through her writing for New Worlds and elsewhere in the late Sixties, and has gained a reputation as a brilliant and original stylist. She has attended various conventions in the past and is very lively and amusing in person.

— Rob Jackson

BANQUET

For the Banquet on Sunday evening, we have arranged for an alternative Vegetarian Menu to be available at the same cost as the main Banquet menu previously announced in PR3, £9.50 including VAT. Tickets for the Banquet can be bought up till the Friday evening of the convention, or ordered on the Banquet Ticket Order Form. If you would like the Vegetarian Menu, please inform us before Friday evening of the convention. The menu is as follows:

Chilled Melon

*

Cream of Asparagus

*

Vegetable Quiche

Buttered Peas and Baby Carrots

New Potatoes

*

Peach with Maraschino Cream Sauce

Vanilla Ice Cream Bombe

*

Coffee

The address for Banquet tickets is Eve Harvey, 43 Harrow Rd., Carshalton, Surrey SM5 3QH.

BUSINESS MEETING

The response to my request for agenda items has been amazing — zero! We have only one item at present for discussion, but I feel confident more will be suggested during the convention. The one item we already have is the use of surplus funds by conventions.

On this subject, the Channelcon committee would like to state that they feel any surpluses should be used to benefit fandom, and that should any surplus be made by the convention, it will be used as follows:

1. To produce a fifth Progress Report containing attendance figures, accounts, Minutes of the Business Meeting, and a statement on how we propose to distribute any surplus still remaining. We have agreement from the Metrocon committee that, should they win the bid for the 1983 Eastercon, they will distribute this PR5 with their first Progress Report which will be sent automatically to all members of Channelcon. As yet no response has been received from the Albacon II committee on this point.
2. The next £100 of any remaining surplus will be donated to existing fan funds.
3. Any remaining funds will be used in some way to benefit fandom. The committee will base their decision on discussions in the Business Meeting, and will announce it in PR5.

— Eve Harvey

Fan Room

Look, I'm organised, honest! It's just that, since the last PR, one of the items has been cancelled, and a few others moved around on the programme. There won't, after all, be a new, improved Captive Slideshow. Sorry. I've been just too busy to get it organised. Maybe Novacon...

So, what will be happening, I hear you cry. Ooh, lots of silly things. I'm planning a very informal, relaxed Fan Room, which is reflected in the programme. As well as the Neo/BNF Quiz mentioned last time, there'll be the mysterious Fan Turn Challenge (guaranteed to be very silly); Nick Lowe will be re-presenting his talk The Black Wine of Thentis, a Faircon highlight and deserving of a wider audience. Other things to look forward to are The Great Pork Pie Race, and you'll have your opportunity to play the life-sized version of Escape from the Convention. Plus a few surprise items.

On the more serious side, you can find out what's been happening in American and Australian fandom over the past year and there'll be a discussion on what's been happening in British fandom since last Easter. With the aid of the Fannish Year display, you can find information about your local sf group and bookshop; upcoming conventions and other items of fannish interest; and discover what your fellow fans got up to during the year. (I'm looking for photographs of Beccon. If you have any to spare, can you bring them to Brighton?) Fanzine editors and Convention organisers will have the opportunity to leave their zines or flyers or whatever at the Goodie/Freebie table and we'll make sure that they're sold or distributed on their behalf, thus leaving arms free for more important things like buying drinks for Fan Room organisers.

You'll find the Fan Room in the North End Room. Please drop in and say hello. I'll be the worried-looking one at the front swearing to himself in a Scottish accent. See you there.

— Jim Barker

Babysitting

Due to lack of demand, we have decided to abandon the idea of a children's room or creche. We apologise to the people who expressed an interest in the proposed service, and hope they will be able to make alternative arrangements.

Book Room, Book Auction

The Norfolk Room, on the lower ground floor of the Metropole, is being used for the Book Room, and it will be open for dealers to set up their displays from mid-day on Thursday, 8th April. There is direct access to the Norfolk Room from a loading bay off Cannon Place; however, this door will be closed from Friday to Sunday and may not be used during this time.

The Book Room will be open to convention attendees from Friday to Sunday, from 10.00 am to approximately 6.00 pm, and on Monday from 10.00 am until approximately 1 pm. All dealers must have vacated the Norfolk Room by 5.00 pm on Easter Monday. Payment for tables (£10 per table) will be collected on Sunday.

The Book Auction will be held on Sunday from 10.00 am to 11.00 am. A commission of 10% will be charged by the Convention on all sales, except where proceeds are for TAFF or GUFF.

— Chris Atkinson

Art Show, Art Auction

The Art Show is being held in the County Suite, which will be available for exhibitors to hang or set up their work from mid-day on Thursday 8th April. The Art Show will be open from 10.00 am to 6.00 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. For exhibitors who wish their work to be auctioned, the Art Auction will be held on Monday morning from 11.00 am to 12 noon. Exhibitors will also have the option of selling their work on a direct "quick sale" basis during the course of the Convention, at a slightly lower price than the "reserve" price for the auction. Further details of this scheme will be available at the Convention. The Convention will charge a commission of 10% on all sales of work displayed in the Art Show.

— Chris Atkinson

The BSFA Award

Formerly known as the British Science Fiction Award, the British SF Association Award was conceived (according to the Encyclopaedia Nicholliana) as a counter-weight to the American-dominated Hugo and Nebula Awards, to honour British authors and British novels that might otherwise have been overlooked. But the practice never seemed to match up to theory: although the Award has gone to some fine works — Bob Shaw's Orbitsville, John Bruuner's The Jagged Orbit and Ian Watson's The Jonah Kit, to name but a few — the eligibility rules were changed so frequently that no-one could ever remember what they were (and in consequence soon lost interest in the whole thing), and the winners were sometimes chosen in secret by an unknown panel of judges anyway.

Until 1979, when — under the aegis of those who had taken over the BSFA's governing Council at that year's AGM — the Award was subjected to a thorough shake-up, with organisation and consistency being at last introduced into its procedures.

It has, since then, been given in four categories, for the best novel, short fiction, media presentation and cover artist for the preceding year (as per the Hugos), the sole criterion being that the said items must have received their first British publication or presentation during that year. (It is thus no longer limited to British authors alone, although, unsurprisingly, they do tend to feature more prominently.) It has also, since then, been divided into two stages (again as per the Hugos): a nominating round, in which BSFA members only are eligible to participate, and from whose nominations are drawn the top five in each category to go forward onto the final ballot; and a voting round, in which both members of the BSFA and attending members of that year's Eastercon are eligible to participate.

Meaning, of course, you who are reading this.

The point about involving members of the Eastercon as well as those of the BSFA is simple: it is the only popular award of its kind in Britain, and if it is to be at all representative must therefore have the widest possible voting base. (Although this has to be balanced against the need to identify and maintain its BSFA origins: hence the restrictions at the nominating stage on who may vote.) A cynic might claim that this would only result in lowest-common-denominator mediocrity emerging triumphant over quality, but if past performance is anything to go by this just isn't the case — the 1980 novel winner (the first under the new system), for example, was J.G. Ballard's The Unlimited Dream Company, with Gregory Benford's Timescape sliding to victory last year in the face of stiff competition from such equally worthy contenders as Michael Bishop's Transfigurations, John Crowley's Engine Summer and Keith Roberts's Molly Zero; and when you look at the nominations on this year's final ballot....

Well, you will — when you collect your Programme Book from the registration desk on arrival at Channelcon, you should also receive a ballot form for the 1982 BSFA Award. So use your vote — it's just as important as anyone else's.

— Joseph Nicholas, BSFA Award Administrator

Channelcon Members from 15.1.82 to 17.3.82

A = Attending S = Supporting

505 Mr. P. Jordan (A)
506 Mr. D.G. Gibson (A)
507 Eddie Bundred (A)
508 Dave George (A)
509 Bob Shaw (A)
510 Neil Craig (A)
511 Tony Hammond (A)
512 Kim Whysall (A)
513 Mr. P. Gardner (A)
514 Yves Schlirf (A)
515 Alan Cash (A)
516 Nick Quinn (A)
517 Josephine Saxton (A)
518 Alan J. Wylie (A)
519 Debby Moir (A)
520 Mr. M.R. Moir (A)
521 R. Bennett (A)
522 Philip Smith (A)
523 Kev Easthope (A)
524 Dave Upton (A)
525 Jill Morris (A)
526 Rune Forsgren (S)
527 Leroy Kettle (A)
528 Dave Cox (A)
529 Mike Cheater (A)
530 Gina Burgess (A)
531 Colin Edwards (A)
532 T.S. Hayward (A)
533 David Higgins (A)
534 Glenn McCauley (A)
535 J.E.C. Robinson (A)
536 Ian Sorensen (A)
537 Christopher Baker (S)
538 Mike Llewelyn (S)
539 Wolfgang Jeschke (A)
540 Thomas Schlück (A)
541 (H) Trevor Thrower (A)
542 (A) Liz Burak (A)
543 (T) Phil Willis (A)
544 (F) Pete Randall (A)
545 (I) Chris Seller (A)
546 (E) Phil Lucas (A)
547 (L) Shelly Miles Harris (A)
548 (D) B.W. Gardiner (A)
549 Elaine Goswell (A)
550 John K. Nicoll (A)
551 Susan Humphries (A)
552 Mark Barltrop (A)
553 Huw Davies (A)
554 C.A.M. Shackle (A)
555 Steve Higgins (A)
556 Tim Headlong (A)
557 Alan Dorey (A)
558 Niall Ross (A)
559 Simon Meacock (A)
560 Sheila Holdstock (A)
561 P.L. Rogers (A)
562 A. Stupple (A)
563 Eric Bentcliffe (A)
564 Paul J. Groom (A)
565 Cheryl V. Groom (A)
566 John Newman (A)
567 Joan Newman (A)
568 Mary Wheatcroft (A)
569 Iain W. Harvey (A)
570 Nick Flynn (A)
571 Alfred Still (A)
572 S. Horwood (A)
573 Andrew Trapnell (A)
574 Melvyn Hughes (A)
575 Pete Wright (A)
576 Leslie Flood (A)
577 Hugh P. Mascetti (A)
578 Keith Scaife (A)
579 Steve Gallagher (A)
580 Marilyn Gallagher (A)
581 Susan Francis (A)
582 Lee Owers (A)
583 Jem Clarke (A)
584 Kevin Anderson (A)
585 Lin Anderson (A)
586 Barry Bayley (A)
587 D. Gomer (A)
588 Bernard Mercer (A)
589 Martine Janssen (A)
590 Jean-Claude Delaroyere (A)
591 John Bark (A)
592 Graham Martin (A)
593 Graham Head (A)
594 Kevin J. Clark (A)
595 Michael Cule (A)
596 Pascale Moulin (A)
597 Jon Wilkes (A)
598 Pam Wells (A)
599 Pete Harris (A)
600 Dave Jones (A)
601 E.J.M. Hartman (A)
602 Kevin Henwood (A)
603 Tony Murfet (A)
604 Ann Brown (A)
605 Wayne Morgan (A)
606 Derval Diamond (A)
607 Georgeanne Johnson (A)
608 Paul Blackwell (A)
609 Heather Hillsden (A)
610 Sue Hillsden (A)
611 Carol MacFarland (A)
612 G. Clarke (A)
613 Brian Pugh (A)
614 Jenny Pugh (A)
615 Marina Holroyd (A)
616 Kevin Busby (A)
617 Jennifer Rogers (A)
618 Steve Mowbray (A)
619 Peter Jones (A)
620 Jim Cawthorn (A)
621 Adam Jefford (A)
622 Douglas Gray (A)
623 M.B. Warriss (A)
624 James White (A)
625 John Butcher (A)
626 Karen Rawes (A)
627 Trevor Barker (A)
628 M.J. Lynes (A)
629 Denise Atkinson (A)
630 Stuart Atkinson (A)
631 Roger Campbell (A)
632 Stuart Hay (A)
633 Nicholas Turner (A)
634 Lars Erik Holmquist (A)
635 Simon Strong (A)
636 Ken Brown (A)
637 Terry Pratchett (A)
638 Chuck Connor (A)
639 Christopher Brasted (A)

640 Simon Short (A)
641 John Wharf (A)
642 Jim Lush Jnr. (A)
643 Nobby Greenwood (A)
644 Dave Harbud (A)
645 Philip Bostock (A)
646 A.R. Williamson (A)
647 Peter Seddon (A)
648 Ronald Foster (A)
649 G. Barnes (A)
650 M. Foster (A)
651 D. Smith (A)
652 K. Cowan (A)
653 Barry Twycross (A)
654 Daniel Steel (A)
655 David Haines (A)
656 Michael J. Hardy (A)
657 R. Farmbrough (A)
658 David R. Harris (A)
659 Friend of " (A)
660 Pete A. Gilligan (A)
661 Alan Hyde (A)
662 Martin Howell (A)
663 S.C. Wadsworth (A)
664 Paul Gamble (A)
665 Dick Jude (A)
666 John Nicholls (A)
667 Mike Lake (A)
668 Wendy Lake (A)
669 Simon Bamber (A)
670 Jacqueline Robinson (A)
671 Anthony Heathcote (A)
672 Dave Cockfield (A)
673 H.J. Landis (A)
674 Alexander Webb (A)
675 F.J.M. Craddock (A)
676 Chris Suslowicz (A)
677 Stephen O'Kane (A)
678 F. Quittenden (A)
679 Jan Huxley (A)
680 Chris Hughes (A)
681 Marilla Hain (A)
682 Friend of " (A)
683 Anthony Prendergast (A)
684 Phil Harris (A)

Fancy Dress

Just a reminder that Saturday night is party night, and a fancy dress party/ disco is the order of the day. Everyone is invited to attend in some kind of fancy dress, and we'll be selling black domino masks for a few pence in aid of TAFF to help those of you stuck for ideas or with a passionate desire to play Zorro the Gay Blade in the hotel corridors!

There will be a Fancy Dress Parade for those of you wishing to compete for wildly alcoholic prizes, or just for the hell of it. We also have a separate area where eager photographers can attend a photo call beforehand. Entries can be serious/silly/dramatic/ awful puns/jokes or whatever you like, the more the merrier; but whether you enter the parade please come in fancy attire if you can.

Anyone wishing details of floorspace, lighting etc. please contact me, sending a S.A.E., at this address:

— Anne Page, 11 Manor Farm Rd., Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2HT.

Alternate Programme

One thing I have always hoped to do with the programme for Channelcon is something for all of us with aspirations to become a writer. Therefore, at various times which will be announced during the course of the convention. I will be asking various writers, and others concerned with science fiction (publishers, editors, agents), to talk briefly about starting our as a writer. They will then, hopefully, be prepared to take part in a question and answer session.

If you are interested, keep an eye on the notice board. These talks will be held in the York Room, and audiences will be limited.

— Paul Kincaid

VIDEO *(VHS)*

Throughout Channelcon there will be a video show in the Devon Room. We will be providing a VHS Video recorder, and have already arranged for a number of films and television shows to be shown. If you want to bring any videos of your own, we will be only too happy to add them to our programme. Please get in touch with any member of the committee at the convention. If you do bring any videos, they will, of course, be your responsibility.

Notices giving details of the video programme will be displayed at the video room.

— Paul Kincaid